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# THE MORNING NEWS

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### Annual AHATA Recycled Art expo and contest underway



The time is approaching for the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA) Environmental Committee Annual Recycled Art Expo and Contest; organizers announced deadlines for registration and submission of art at the AHATA headquarters on Monday afternoon. (see more info on pg 2)

### Third student dies after Ohio school shooting



**CHARDON (AFP)** - The death toll from a high school shooting in Ohio rose to three Tuesday with two more teens succumbing to wounds suffered when a fellow student opened fire in a high school cafeteria.

The alleged shooter, identified as 17-year-old TJ Lane, opened fire Monday with a handgun on a group of fellow students in the cafeteria of Chardon High School in suburban Cleveland shortly after the start of the school day.

Demetrius Hewlin and Russell King died Tuesday from gunshot wounds suf-

## Construction, addition and renovation of Aruba's Hospital now ready for execution

On Monday the formal signing of the contract for the construction, addition and renovation of the Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital took place.

The following persons representing various institutions put on this massive project: Mr. Hodgson, President of SOGA (Stichting Onroerend Goed Aruba), Frensel Giel, President of AIB and for Buro di Arkitektu Bermello and Ajamil and Partners, Mr. Bermello.

The signing took place in the presence of Ministers



**Photo depicts the involved parties signing the contract**  
 Benny Sievinger and Richard Visser, Medical Director of the Hospital Dr. Haime Falconi, Financial Director of the Hospital Mr. De Kool, members of the SOGA, and various advisers of both the Hospital and the government.

The government remarked that they were delighted that they have reached this milestone after many years of deliberations and discussions. Finally, they can begin to see the fruits of their labor with respect to our Hospital. This year they expect to begin

construction in earnest on the Hospital. According to Minister Sievinger, construction is scheduled to begin in the month of November of this year. He intimated that depending on different factors they may even begin earlier than November with the work.

According to the government, this is going to be a majestic project. For the next 30 years Aruba will have a state-of-the-art Hospital that will serve Aruba at the highest possible level.



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Continued on pg 7

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## Punchy Obama hits Republicans over auto bailout

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A pugnacious President Barack Obama tore into Republican opponents for talking "a load of you-know-what" on the campaign trail and fighting efforts to save the US auto industry on Tuesday.

In a barn-storming speech before 1,500 auto workers, Obama accused rivals of brazen dishonesty over the \$80 billion auto bailout, as he injected himself into Tuesday's close-fought Michigan Republican primary.

Republican candidates Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum and Newt Gingrich vehemently opposed government help for General Motors and Chrysler, but have struggled to square that stance with voters in a state that is home to generations of autoworkers.

Santorum and Romney are tied in the polls.

With General Motors posting record profits and Chrysler back in rude health, Obama contrasted his policies with past Republican -- and particularly Romney's -- entreaties to "let Detroit go bankrupt."

In full campaign flow, Obama did not refer to his rival by name but repeatedly quoted a 2008 article penned

by Romney arguing the government should "let Detroit go bankrupt."

On the defensive, the Michigan-born former governor has frequently accused Obama of engineering the bailout to help his union friends, leveling charges of "crony capitalism."

Obama hit back at that charge, using unusually strong language.

"You've got folks saying, well, the real problem is -- what we really disagreed with was the workers, they all made out like bandits -- that saving the auto industry was just about paying back the unions."

"I mean, even by the standards of this town, that's a load of you-know-what."

"Since when are hard-working men and women who are putting in a hard day's work every day -- since when are they special interests? Since when is the idea that we look out for one another a bad thing?"

While Michigan reliably votes Democrat in the general election, Obama's campaign braintrust will hope his message seals a win there in November plays well in nearby Ohio and Indiana.

## 11th Annual AHATA Recycled Art expo and contest underway



the new picture is the announcement is of Vanessa Rasmussen, on the right, and her interns from U of A and EPI Emjaelka Kelly and Lizmary Wolff (epi)

The time is approaching for the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA) Environmental Committee Annual Recycled Art Expo and Contest; organizers announced

practical use.

Deadline for inscription and submission of concept is Monday, April 2nd. Entries will be exhibited at the Cas di Cultura in Oranjestad from April 16th to 27th. The official grand opening event will be on April 16th at 3:00 PM, and the winners for the best entries will be announced at the closing on April 27th, also at 3:00 PM.

Many island vendors, activity companies, restaurants and resorts have donated valuable prizes for the winners, which are awarded in seven categories; kindergarten, primary schools – grades 1 to 3 and 4 to 6, secondary schools, companies/organizations/hotels, individual amateur and individual professional artist.

Aside from the purpose of highlighting the importance to "reduce, reuse and recycle", the project prompts entrants to go out and clean up the surrounding environment for materials, and elicits entries with a mind to practical as well as beautiful uses. Each year entrants have produced wonderful products such as pocketbooks made of used plastic supermarket bags and lamps of plastic cups or discarded bottles; the

artists' ingenuity continually surprises the judges and those attending.

Aside from recycled materials such as foam, plastics, cardboard boxes, bottle caps, beverage cans and bottles,



(Last year) First place winner pro Edger Kock and fantasy lamps of plastic cups



(Last year) Entry of first place group winner from KinderAtelier

juice boxes, newspapers and magazines and broken glass or other debris, new materials such as glue and paint to construct and decorate the works of art are allowed. To inscribe for this year's competition and obtain a project guideline, contact AHATA staffer Vanessa Rasmussen at 582-2607 or Vanesa@ahata.com or University of Aruba intern Emjaelka Kelly at emjaelka@ahata.com. Rosalie Klein



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## Aruban Investors Contribute to the growth of the local economy

Oranjestad, February 28th, 2012 -- In the beginning of 2011, Milton Berlinski, Rene Kan and Justus Martens decided to set up a one-hundred million florin local investment fund, so that they could put their extensive international experience as businessmen, investors and financial specialists to good use and invest in Aruban companies with the goal of strengthening the Aruban economy.

In most countries, local companies have access to growth capital via the stock market and/or private equity funds. These financial instruments, which are so important for economic development, have until now been completely missing in Aruba, and for that reason, the creation of a local investment fund is so crucial for the growth of the national economy.

Yesterday afternoon, at 3pm, about one year after the idea was hatched, the documentation is being signed for the creation of the Aruba

Growth Fund – AGF ([www.arubagrowthfund.com](http://www.arubagrowthfund.com)). Five leading local institutions, APFA, the WEB and Elmar pension funds, Meta Corporation and the Caribbean Mercantile Bank, have joined as investors in this venture, which will be managed by Berlinski, Kan and Martens, together with two other principals -- under the name BKM Management. AIB Bank NV has been involved with AGF from the beginning in the initial fund-raising, and will continue to assist in attracting new investors for the coming two years.

For the next seven years the capital of the Aruba Growth Fund will be invested in the form of shares in Aruban companies; so not in the form of loans. These companies include existing, medium and large enterprises in all sectors of the economy. What these companies have in common is their potential to continue to grow through regional expansion, diversifi-

cation and investments. These companies must have a good financial track record and a strong management team.

In today's business environment, it is very difficult for Aruban companies to attract new capital, and practically impossible for the owners of these companies to sell their shares. Capital is not available at the moment and family-owned companies are not able to find solutions for their succession challenges. If interested investors can be found they are usually from foreign countries and thereby less inclined to uphold and safeguard local interests in terms of employment, continuity, and company culture.

The investors are committed to the further development of the local economy, and believe in the potential of Aruban companies. They share this confidence with the investment team and will contribute a crucial service for a more sustainable eco-

nomic development in the years to come.

The Aruba Growth Fund will make sure that, just as in many other countries, an in-

vestment instrument exists that allows local investors to be able to participate in the equity growth of local companies.



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## Aruba Governor presents "Maletin di Tesoro" to Primary School Colegio Sagrado Curason in Savaneta



Several days ago, during a formal ceremony His Excellency, Fredis Refunjol, Governor of Aruba, Lilith Rasmijn and Miss Jennifer Larmonie were in attendance at the Colegio Sagrado Curason Primary School in Savanata on the occasion of the presentation of the official "Maletin di Tesoro," (Treasure Bag).

By sheer coincidence, the Governor is an alumni and former headmaster of the Colegio Sagrado Curason school, while Mrs. Lilith Rasmijn is also an alumni and current headmaster and Jennifer Larmonie is also an alumni and current student at IPA. The Governor used the



occasion to share something of the history of the school and its surroundings to the large group of students.

Today, Colegio Sagrado Curason is the largest Primary School on Aruba with as many as 18 classes! After raising the Aruba Flag, the children sang the Aruba national anthem and Mrs. Rasmijn welcomed all present. The Governor then presented the "The Maletin di Tesoro" (Treasure Bag) to Mrs. Rasmijn and student William Arismendi.

Head Mistress Rasmijn, upon receiving the Treasure Bag, remarked that ... "Cole-

gio Sagrado Curason feels much honored and extremely happy with the visit of Governor Refunjol."

Mrs. Alice van Romondt, President of the 25th Status Aparte Anniversary celebration Commission, thanked the Governor for his visit and the time dedicated to the school and for sharing something of its history and the history of its barrio with the

children and teachers who had gathered for the occasion.

The Treasure Chest is part of the memorabilia of the 25th Celebration of Status Aparte. The Commission hopes that our Primary schools will make good use of the valuable contents of the Chest. Van Romondt informed the group that they are planning to present the Treasure Chest to different institutions in our community.

The Intention of the government is to use the Treasure Chest to add to the knowledge of each child and young person. In this way they would contribute to the value and love for our national symbols, such as our money, our legal formation, our language -the Papiamento, our Flag and National Anthem.

**Poem: Mucha dushi, abo sa?**  
Tesoro precioso di Aruba bo ta!  
are

Sigui carga nos bandera  
Abo ta futuro di nos Dushi Tera  
Country  
No tin duda, sigur bo por!  
tainly can

Djis duna Aruba bo ... AMOR..  
By: Gina Ramirez

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(Free translation by TG for Morning News)

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**TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC**

## International News

### Thousands protest in Syrian capital: activists



An image grab taken from a video uploaded on YouTube on February 19, shows Syrians waving the former pre-Baath flag during an anti-regime protest in the Qadam neighbourhood of Damascus.

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Thousands of mourners took to the streets of the Syrian capital on Tuesday for the funerals of civilians killed in the regime's crackdown on dissent, activists said.

"Thousands of people attended at noon the funeral of two martyrs killed on Sunday and Monday in Kfar Sousa," a residential neighbourhood in western Damascus, said Mo-

hammed al-Shami.

"The protesters were surrounded by security agents who threw tear-gas grenades," said the spokesman of the Damascus chapter of the Local Coordination Committees, an umbrella group of anti-regime protesters.

The head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring

group said 5,000 people took part in the funeral protest.

Damascus has seen relatively few protests since the dissent movement against the regime of President Bashar al-Assad erupted nearly a year ago.

"The number of protests is increasing as the repression worsens," said Abdel Rahman.

Hundreds of protesters also filled the streets of the historic neighbourhood of Midan on Tuesday for the funeral of another civilian killed by regime forces, Shami said.

Mourners emerged from mosques and took to the streets, he said.

Demonstrations were also reported in the districts of Barzeh, Zamalka and Irbin near Damascus despite a massive deployment of security sources, activists said. According to the Observatory, more than 30 students were arrested at Damascus University.

### Court orders Time to pay 'sweepstakes winner'

OTTAWA (AFP) - Canada's top court on Tuesday ordered Time magazine to pay a Quebec man \$16,000 for misleading him to believe in a letter meant to sell subscriptions that he had won a sweepstakes.

The Supreme Court upheld a lower court decision that found the layout of the advertisement and sentences in bold print such as "Jean-Marc Richard has won a cash prize" gave a false impression, despite a disclaimer in small print.

It awarded Jean-Marc Richard the payout for moral injuries and punitive damages for misleading advertising.

In its ruling, the high court

said advertisements must be considered "from the perspective of the average consumer, who is credulous and inexperienced and takes no more than ordinary care to observe that which is staring him or her in the face upon first entering into contact with an entire advertisement."

Court documents said Richard received an "Official Sweepstakes Notification" in his mail in August 1999 that included "several exclamatory sentences in bold uppercase letters" suggesting he had won a cash prize of \$833,337.

A clause in small print said the awarding of the prize was conditional on him holding a

pre-selected winning coupon that had to be returned to the company.

The letter also offered Richard the possibility of subscribing to Time magazine, which he did.

But when he was later told that he had not actually won the prize, he sued.

A Quebec Superior Court judge sided with Richard, but the decision was overturned on appeal on the grounds that a consumer "with an average level of intelligence, skepticism and curiosity" would not have been misled by the letter.

The high court disagreed.

### Some remains of 9/11 victims taken to landfill: Pentagon

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Some portions of remains recovered from the September 11 attacks were incinerated and eventually dumped in a landfill, the Defense Department revealed Tuesday for the first time.

The revelation came from a Pentagon review of a military mortuary at Dover Air Force Base that has been blamed for mishandling the remains of troops killed in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The portions of remains came from the 2001 attacks on the Pentagon and from a hijacked airliner that went down in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, on 9/11, according to the report.

The military had acknowledged last year that some portions of remains of fallen soldiers at the Dover mortuary in Delaware had been incinerated and disposed of at a landfill in Virginia, a practice that angered military families and led to a new policy.

Starting in 2008, the military decided to dispose of unidentified cremated remains at sea.

But the review released Tuesday said "several portions of remains from the Pentagon attack and the Shanksville, Pennsylvania, crash site" also were taken to a landfill.

"These cremated portions were then placed in sealed containers that were provided to a biomedical waste disposal contractor," it said.

The report contradicted an earlier account from the air force, which had said last year there were no records that showed how remains were handled before 2003.

Air Force Secretary Michael Donley said the serv-

ice had accepted "responsibility and culpability" over the mismanagement of the Dover mortuary but was now working to ensure no more mistakes occur.

"Our focus is from here forward," Donley told reporters.

The review commissioned by the Pentagon called for bolstering oversight and restructuring the chain of command overseeing the mortuary.

Last year, investigators found "gross mismanagement" at the US Air Force mortuary, with body parts lost in two cases and remains of others mishandled.



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"Together we will learn"

## International News

### Wounded British journalist 'safe in Lebanon'

BEIRUT (AFP) - Wounded British journalist Paul Conroy has been smuggled safely out of the besieged Syrian rebel city of Homs and crossed into Lebanon, officials said on Tuesday.

But there was uncertainty over the fate of French reporter Edith Bouvier, who was first reported to have also escaped before that was denied.

An international NGO, Avaaz, said three activists were killed in a rescue operation for the wounded journalists.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy retracted an earlier statement in which he had confirmed that Bouvier, who has multiple fractures, had escaped from the besieged district of Baba Amr in Homs.

### Chavez surgery in Cuba said to be successful

HAVANA (AFP) - Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez was in good condition Tuesday after surgeons in Cuba removed a lesion from the pelvic area where they cut out a cancerous tumor last year, Vice President Elias Jaua said.

Venezuelan officials have never specified the kind of cancer the leftist president has, but they have denied the cancer has spread to other organs.

Jaua said doctors will study the results of the operation to determine "the optimum way to treat the lesion."

Cuban television also reported that Chavez was operated on successfully in the Center for Medical-Surgical Investigations (CIMEQ), Cuba's most modern hospital.

Chavez declared himself cancer-free last October, before announcing on February 21 that a small lesion had been

"It is not confirmed that she is now safe in Lebanon," he said, adding that the situation was "unclear" and "complicated".

On its website, the newspaper also noted that "the French embassy in Beirut has indicated it is not able to confirm rumours about the journalist's evacuation to Lebanon."

Both journalists were wounded in a February 22 rocket attack on a makeshift media centre in Baba Amr, a rebel stronghold in the central Syrian city of Homs, in which US veteran reporter Marie Colvin and French photographer Remi Ochlik were killed.

Two other journalists trapped in Homs are William Daniels, a photographer who also was on assignment for Le

discovered.

The possible return of Chavez's cancer has cast doubt over his October 7 re-election bid, likely to be the most closely contested presidential election in years.

Chavez, 57, who remains active as president while absent from Venezuela, has been in power since 1999.

The leftist firebrand now faces a strong challenge from 39-year-old Henrique Capriles, who was chosen as the sole opposition candidate in a primary earlier this month.

Chavez has used Venezuela's vast oil wealth on popular social programs and to help keep his Communist ally Cuba afloat, as he courted anti-US allies from Iran to Libya.

Jaua's announcement followed days of speculation about Chavez's health, which continued Tuesday.

Figaro, and Spaniard Javier Espinosa who works for the Spanish daily El Mundo.

Conroy's employers, Britain's Sunday Times newspaper, said he was "in good shape and good spirits" following his escape.

Wissam Tarif of Avaaz said his organisation coordinated the rescue together with Syrian activists from the battered city of Homs and across the border into Lebanon.

The Syrian Red Crescent, meanwhile, said its rescuers left Homs on Tuesday after talks to evacuate the journalists foundered.

A total of 13 activists were killed trying to assist the Western journalists and to bring in aid to Baba Amr, according to Avaaz.

Brazilian journalist Merval Pereira said on his blog that Chavez was been operated on overnight Monday in Havana for an exploratory laparotomy because the case "seemed more complicated" than expected.

Venezuelan journalist Nelson Bocaranda wrote in El Universal that a Brazilian doctor traveled to Havana Sunday to take part in evaluating Chavez and that a Russian specialist also helped by telephone.

WikiLeaks meanwhile published emails from Texas-based intelligence firm Stratfor Sunday including a Venezuelan source who said that Cuban doctors gave Chavez two years to live while the Russians believed he had less than a year due to improper medical equipment.

### Third student dies .... continued from page 01

As in previous school shootings, the gunman's demons, the missed warning signs and lax US gun laws leapt quickly to the fore.

Some students have described Lane as an "outcast" who had been bullied and said he had posted warnings on Twitter and left disturbing messages on Facebook.

The White House called the event "terrible and unforgivable" and said it was too early to link it to bullying.

Describing the mayhem, Nate Mueller, a junior at the high school, said he watched one of his friends bend over a table bleeding and another fall to the ground in a pool of blood before a shot grazed his own ear.

"It was terror," Mueller told ABC News. "There's blood, there's people screaming, everybody's just running in different directions and you're just trying to get out."

A teacher eventually chased the shooter from the school, as the town of 5,000 residents was placed on lockdown and the victims were rushed to hospital, some by helicopter. Police quickly apprehended the suspect.

"We are shocked by this senseless tragedy," said a statement from the Parmertor family. "Danny was a bright young boy who had a bright future ahead of him. The family is torn by this loss."

Lane's family late Monday issued a statement through

their lawyer Bob Farinacci offering "heartfelt and sincere condolences" to Parmertor's relatives and their prayers to the other victims.

Farinacci added that the shooter was not known as a teenager who courted trouble.

"By all accounts, TJ is a fairly quiet and good kid. His grades are pretty impressive. He's been doubling up his classes this year," the attorney said.

The last major school shooting incident in Ohio was in Cleveland in 2007 when a 14-year-old student killed himself after wounding two teachers and two fellow students.

The deadliest school shooting in the United States was the 2007 massacre at Virginia Tech University that left 33 people dead. The worst high school shooting was in 1999 at Columbine High School in Colorado, where two students killed 12 fellow students and a teacher.

Chardon's schools superintendent said students would resume a nearly-normal class schedule by Friday, although law enforcement and mental health experts would continue to be present.

The tragedy is a reminder that the events that rocked the school this week "can happen everywhere," Superintendent Joseph Bergant said. "We're not just any old place, Chardon. This is every place."

A candlelit vigil was to be held late Tuesday at a local church.

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## Health & Living

**Sweden eyes law allowing insemination of single women**



STOCKHOLM (AFP) - Sweden will likely move to allow single women to receive artificial insemination after three of the government's four coalition parties said Tuesday they would push for changes to existing legislation.

"We are convinced that a person's suitability as a parent does not depend on whether or not they are living as a couple," parliamentarians from Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt's conservative Moderate Party, and coalition members the Centre and Liberal parties, wrote in Swedish daily Svenska Dagbladet, noting that many single Swedish women have chosen to travel abroad to undergo the procedure.

"We think there should not be a judicial differentiation between families made up of one or two parents the way it is done today," they wrote.

Kristina Grandin, who went to Denmark for the insemination that led to the birth of her two-and-a-half-year-old daughter, hailed the decision.

"The important thing is not that a child has a biological mother and father, but that children are surrounded by adults who take care of them and love them," she told Swedish public radio.

Goeran Haegglund, the head of the Christian Democrats, disagreed.

"We think this is a very bad proposal. ... What one is doing here is creating a law that will remove some children's right to one of their parents," he told the TT news agency.

"We need more fathers in children's lives, not fewer," he insisted.

### Health Tip: Spot the Symptoms of Heart Attack

-- Women may not initially suspect that they're having a heart attack -- especially if they don't have the obvious chest pain. The Womenshealth.gov website mentions these common symptoms of heart attack:

- An uncomfortable feeling or pain in the chest.
- Strange and uncomfortable sensations throughout the upper body.
- Shortness of breath.
- Breaking out in a cold sweat.
- Feeling unusually fatigued for no apparent reason.
- Sudden feelings of dizziness or lightheadedness.
- Feeling nauseated.



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## Melting Arctic causes snowier winters: study

(AFP) - Melting sea ice in the Arctic may be causing the snowier winters the northern hemisphere has experienced in the last two seasons, US and Chinese researchers reported.

The level of Arctic sea ice reached a new record low in 2007, said the study led by the Georgia Institute of Technology and published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Meanwhile, above-average snowfall has blanketed large parts of the northern United States, northwestern and central Europe, and northern and central China.

The northern hemisphere has recorded its second and third largest snow covers in documented history in the last two seasons, spanning the winters of 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.

Researchers believe the disappearing Arctic ice is sending more water vapor into the air, and is interfering with atmospheric currents and westerly winds that would typically have swept snowy weather northward.

Instead, more cold air is descending into the middle and lower latitudes, "leading to increased heavy snowfall in Europe and the northeast and midwest regions of the United

States," said Jiping Liu, a senior research scientist at Georgia Tech.

## Internet: Russia's new anti-Putin weapon

(AFP)- Russia's new Internet-savvy opposition is going online to protest and monitor the presidential elections on March 4, bringing its iPhones and Twitter into the fray against Vladimir Putin.

As jokes and spoof videos about Putin, expected to win back the presidency in Sunday's polls, spread like wildfire on social networking sites and YouTube, opposition activists are using the Internet to promote their cause.

After a slow start, Internet use has sky-rocketed in Russia in recent years and last year the country overtook Germany as having Europe's largest number of Internet users, a development the opposition have not hesitated to exploit.

This week a Moscow-based programme developer, Alexei Chistyakov, 29, presented a new iPhone app to allow election monitors at polling stations to instantly report violations.

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## Sci-Tech

# Mozilla to go after Android, Apple with cheap phone OS



(AFP) - Mozilla, which brought the free web browser Firefox to the masses, now wants to do the same for mobile users, with a new open source operating system that could drastically slash smartphone prices.

The non-profit group's so-called Boot to Gecko project will go after Google's Android or Apple's iOS, to create an alternative which could generate smartphones that are "10 times cheaper" than an iPhone while offering similar experiences to those running on other platforms.

Mozilla therefore wants to "disrupt" the closed system, and open it up to competition for greater innovation.

The idea is for a platform that is completely reliant on the web, meaning that all of the phones capabilities, in-

cluding calls, messaging, and browsing functions, would be web-based.

Being on the web removes the need for much of the intermediary software that requires large memory or speedy processors -- both of which are expensive.

As a result, it is able to cut costs dramatically.

The group has partnered with Telefonica on the project, with the Spanish giant aiming to ship phones running on the new OS this year.

For Carlos Domingo, Telefonica Digital director of product development, the development spells massive opportunities in Latin America, where smartphones are not catching on because of their prohibitive prices.

A new phone on the Mozilla platform, could be "more than 10 times cheaper" than an iPhone, Domingo told AFP.

It could even be competitive compared to the cheapest phone on Finnish giant Nokia's Lumia line, which runs on the Windows platform and will begin shipping this year at 189 euros.

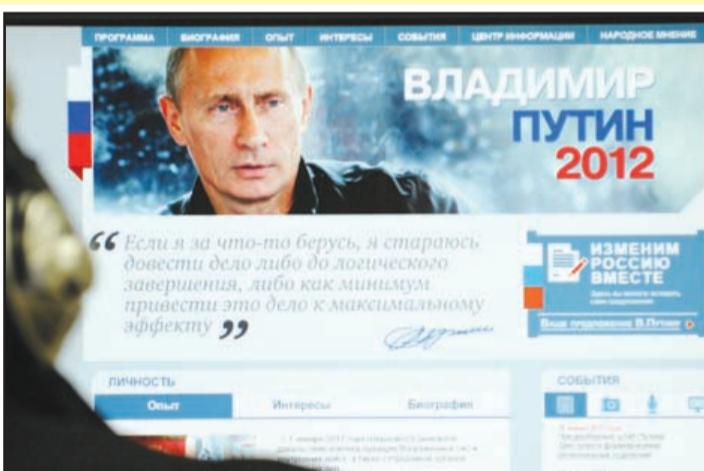
Brazil is a typical target market for Telefonica because it has 75 percent mobile penetration rate, but just five percent on smartphones.

Nevertheless, Mozilla will face stiff challenges from Android and Apple, the runaway smartphone leaders.

Microsoft too, will be launching its new Windows 8 at the Mobile World Congress on Thursday, as it seeks to claw back some market share in the rapidly growing smartphone industry.

But Eich, who invented the popular programming language JavaScript, believes the new system could hold its own against competitors.

Firefox debuted in 2004 as an innovative, communally crafted open-source browser released as an option to Internet Explorer.



It will link up to a call centre organised jointly by Yabloko liberal party and the League of Voters, an umbrella group of celebrities and bloggers who are using their clout to rally election observers.

The elections "are already unfair, let's start with that," he said. "We are doing all this so that people on the outside also acknowledge they are unfair."

Putin, who has slammed the Internet as "50% pornography", has barely entered the Internet battle. But worryingly for the Russian strongman, that's hardly representative of Russians today.

Forty-four percent use the Internet as one of their main news sources, a December poll by the independent Levada centre found, although state-dominated television news remains stronger, with 78 percent watching.

Aiming to change that are Internet sites such as

Ridus.ru, a "citizens' news" service founded last autumn where anyone can submit a story and which covers the opposition rallies in detail.

The founder of Russia's largest social networking site, Vkontakte, Pavel Durov, ran an online poll ahead of December's parliamentary elections. Out of more than 4 million votes, only 21 percent were for ruling party United Russia.

Putin's campaign manager, film director Stanislav Govorukhin, recently called the Internet a "rubbish dump."



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## ACROSS

- Modern bank tellers: abbr.
- Speed up, in music: abbr.
- Chess ending
- Secular
- Sly trickery
- Doctoral exam
- He played Dagwood
- Chest rattle
- Direct
- "The Hustler" prop
- Peters and Price, e.g.
- Exclamations
- Exploitation
- Humane gp.
- Of an age
- Jewish month
- French pronoun
- Marilyn Monroe's rafting flick
- Equal: prefix
- Estevez or Pucci
- French state
- Number of hockey periods
- Britishers
- Fifth, e.g.: abbr.
- All-in
- Area on the Thames
- Evangelist McPherson
- First verse's ending in "Amazing Grace"
- Make efficient by simplifying
- Impostor
- "Amo, amas, I love \_\_\_"
- Mideast airline
- "\_\_\_ Money"

## (1983 film)

- Justices' wear
- Talk back
- "Dear me!"
- Sharp
- Minute object
- Timetable
- Farming: abbr.
- Mea \_\_\_ (breast-beating phrase)
- Rimini byebyes
- Nevada city
- Cyclopean "Futurama" character
- Swamp
- Native of Bahrain, e.g.
- Like Shaquille O'Neal
- Part of an Appomattox

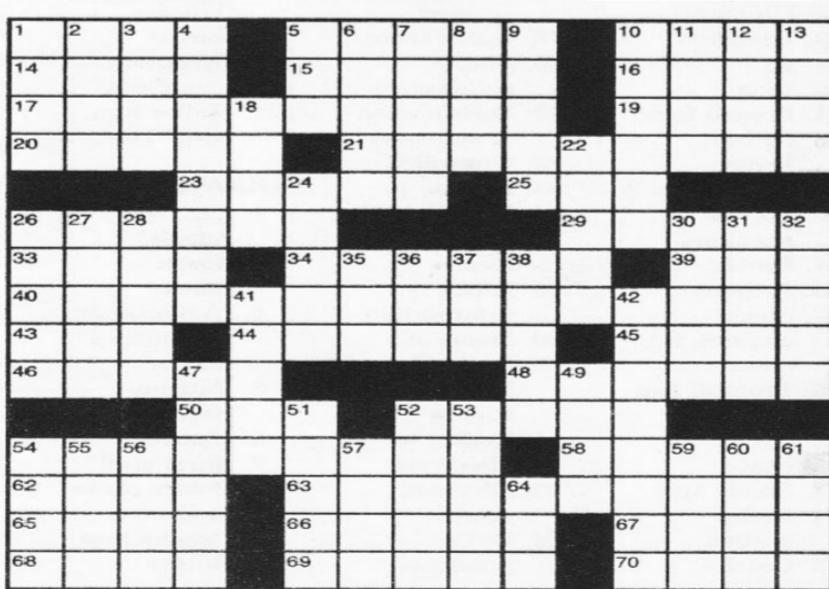
## signature

- "Battle Cry" author Leon
- Clan chief
- Rattler's fang filler
- Worth
- From Dublin
- Delight in
- Dwarf planet dwarfed only by Eris
- "King Lear" courtier
- Rimini byebyes
- Nevada city
- Cyclopean "Futurama" character
- Swamp
- Native of Bahrain, e.g.
- Like Shaquille O'Neal
- Part of an Appomattox
- "Oz" tune)
- NBC long-runner
- disant (so-called)
- Got up
- Pass a rope through a block
- Mercer's

## WATER WORKS

## merchandise

- Café or cafeteria
- Nigerian town
- Member of a Bokhara tribe
- Mirage
- Bel \_\_\_ (semisoft Italian cheese)
- Peevishness
- \_\_\_ Minor
- Genteel socials
- Capital of Manche
- Barcelona's Casa \_\_\_
- Spanish queen and namesakes
- Elver's parents
- Dunce



## SOLUTION

3	4	2	8	1	7	6	5	9
8	5	6	2	9	4	3	1	7
7	9	1	5	8	6	2	4	3
2	3	5	4	7	1	9	6	8
4	6	8	9	2	3	1	7	5
6	2	4	3	1	4	2	5	7
9	8	7	1	6	9	5	3	6
5	1	3	7	6	9	4	8	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Horacio Oduber Hospital  
Tel. 5274000  
EMERGENCY  
Telephone 911  
POLICE HDQS  
Telephone 100

TAXI  
C.V. TAS  
587-1998, 587-5900  
In Oranjestad:  
Tel. 582-2116, 582-1604  
582-5447  
In San Nicolas  
Tel. 584-5160, 584-6602  
professional taxi services  
Tel. 588-0035

AI Anon Meetings  
Mondays 6-7pm  
Sabana Liber 8 in Noord  
Tel: 5673356 / 5838989

## Sudoku

	1		7			4	8	
			1	4				
6	2	4			5		7	
4					2	3		5
7			5	8				3
			9		3		8	2
			9	4				
	4	2			7		5	

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1br DLX wk 9 Room#401D Ocean Front \$11000

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Studio wk 6 thru 8 room #4225 \$8000

### Renaissance Suites

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## Finance

### Oil prices dive on global demand concerns

NEW YORK (AFP) - World oil prices sank further on Tuesday as amid concerns that high energy costs could erode demand and hurt the global economy.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for April, shed \$2.01 to close at \$106.55 a barrel.

In London, Brent North Sea oil for delivery in April settled at \$121.55 a barrel, down \$2.62 from Monday's closing level.

"Oil prices have fallen... due to fears that high prices would lead to demand destruction," said Westhouse Securities analyst Andrew Matharu.

"There are growing expectations that there will be no growth in global demand this year if high prices persist," he added.

Oil prices fell for a second

straight day as traders booked profits from last week's nine-month high levels that had been stoked by intensifying concern over key crude-producing nation Iran.

"It seems that investors were prompted to some profit taking, following the strong rally in crude oil prices in the last three weeks," Sueden analyst Myrto Sokou said.

"So, it looks like a healthy correction lower in the oil market, while global equity

markets are struggling to find some direction."

Meanwhile, tensions between Iran and the West over Tehran's controversial nuclear program were expected to continue to further support oil prices, according to analysts.

"We do not expect any more pronounced or prolonged price correction, as this is countered by the supply risks due to the Iran crisis," Commerzbank analyst Carsten Fritsch said.

"It's proof that confidence has returned to the market," said Gregori Volokhine at Meeschaert New York, noting that the Dow "had tried to top this symbolic level several times."

The tech-rich Nasdaq Composite climbed 20.60 points (0.69 percent) to 2,986.76.

The S&P 500, a broad measure of the markets, advanced 4.59 (0.34 percent) to 1,372.18, its highest close since June 2008.

### Boeing delivers first 747-8 Intercontinental



Boeing celebrated delivery of the first 747-8 Intercontinental Tuesday, more than a year after originally planned. "It's been a long journey," Elizabeth Lund, vice president and general manager of the 747 program, said Tuesday. "It's been a great journey." The Intercontinental is the passenger version of the 747-8, Boeing's largest commercial airplane. The first one went to a private customer, which Boeing didn't formally name but identified in a photo of the airplane as the Qatari government. Boeing executives will only say that the VIP customers for the airplane are all for heads of state, mostly in the Middle East. Boeing, which competes for orders with rival Airbus, has taken 36 orders - nine from non-airline customers - for the aircraft, which lists at \$332.9 million.

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## Dow closes above 13,000 for first time since 2008

NEW YORK (AFP) - The blue-chip Dow Jones Industrial Average closed Tuesday above 13,000 for the first time since the financial crisis five years ago, as stocks rallied despite a mixed bag of economic news.

The Dow, which had been testing the 13,000 level in recent sessions, finally finished a tick above it, at 13,005.12, up by 23.61 points (0.18 percent) from Monday's close.

It was the highest finish for the 30-stock index of big US companies since May 19, 2008, before Lehman Brothers bankruptcy sent markets into a tailspin.

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Opening trade was dampened by the Commerce Department's report that new orders for US durable goods made a broad-based 4.0 percent dive in January after three straight months of gains.

Adding to the negative mood was the closely watched S&P-Case Shiller housing market report, which showed home prices continued to fall in December.

But offsetting the gloom was the Conference Board's report on consumer confidence, which rebounded much stronger than expected in February after a fall the month before.

On the Dow, consumer products giant Procter & Gamble added 1.0 percent, Bank of America was up 1.0 percent and Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, rose 0.8 percent.

Apple was a big driver on the Nasdaq, adding 1.84 percent. Media reports said the company will launch the next iPad on March 7.

GM shares tumbled 1.2 percent after the Wall Street Journal reported that it would take a stake in French automaker PSA Peugeot Citroen, which would raise one billion euros (\$1.3 billion) through a rights issue to facilitate the deal.

Shares in Chinese online advertising group Sina Corp surged 11.26 percent despite the company's missing analyst earnings estimates for its fourth quarter.

Chipmaker Micron Technology jumped 3.7 percent after announcing a deal with Intel to expand its NAND flash memory joint venture. Dow member Intel added 1.3 percent.

Bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 1.93 percent from 1.92 percent on Monday, while the 30-year yield increased to 3.06 percent from 3.04 percent.

Bond prices and yields move in opposite directions.

## La Trattoria El Faro Blanco teams with Maggy's to deliver the most romantic prize ever



Diane Fleming- Maggy's, Roselyn Salas (winner), Arthur Kelly (Representative -La Trattoria El Faro Blanco), Lisa Vrolijk (Grand Prize Winner), Osyth Henriquez (Representative-Old Man & The Seas), Erika Abath and Sylvia Dennert (Maggy's)



Osyth Henriquez (Old Man & The Seas) & Lisa Vrolijk (Grand Prize Winner)



Diane Fleming (Maggy's), Avi Lora (Winner) and Roxana Hoevertsz (Maggy's)



Lisa Vrolijk (Grand Prize Winner), Erika Abath (Maggy's) & Arthur Kelly (La Trattoria El Faro Blaco)



Roselyn Salas (Winner), & Erika Abath (Maggy's)

Maggy's Emporium, purveyor of fine cosmetics, skincare products and top name brand fragrances was proud to partner with Aruba's most romantic restaurant, La Trattoria El Faro Blanco, in offering great prizes for gift shoppers during their Valentine's Day campaign. Aside from baskets filled with a valuable assortment of scents and other coveted personal care items, they were joined by La Trattoria in offering some very attractive incentives towards celebrating the day of romance well in advance. Patrons who had indulged in an Italian dinner there on Valentine's Day or the two weeks prior were eligible to win one of the fantastic gift baskets along with dinner for two. Arthur Kelly represented the restaurant during the award ceremony at Maggy's on the main street. Other participating restaurants were The Old Man and the Sea and Peanuts, in Oranjestad. Lisa Vrolijk was the Grand Prize winner, and was handed her basket by Arthur and Ericka Abath of Maggy's, along with her dinner voucher, plus gift certificates for spa pedicures and manicures for 2 at Maggy's Salon and Spa.

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## Malaysia scraps US singer show over Allah body art

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) - Malaysia on Tuesday cancelled a concert by American singer Erykah Badu after a local newspaper sparked outrage by running a photo of her with body art that included the Arabic word for "Allah."

Information Minister Rais Yatim said in a message on Twitter that the concert was cancelled because it breached government guidelines on "religious sensitivities and cultural values" in Muslim-majority Malaysia.

A ministry official confirmed to AFP that the show was scrapped but declined further comment. Concert organisers could not immediately be reached.

The acclaimed soul artist had been scheduled to perform in the capital Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday.

Islamic groups frequently oppose concerts by Western artists, alleging they promote promiscuous lifestyles and corrupt young minds, but rarely are high-profile acts cancelled once initial approval was granted.

Badu is no stranger to controversy.

She raised eyebrows in 2010 with a video for the song "Window Seat" in which she strips naked while walking the street in Dallas, Texas where President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, falling "dead" at the fateful spot.

Malaysia's biggest English-language daily, The Star, came under fire for running a preview story on Monday including the photo, which showed various symbols on her upper body including in Arabic and Hebrew.

It was not immediately clear whether the symbols were permanent tattoos. Tattoos are forbidden in Islam and many Muslims also frown upon depictions of the word "Allah" that are deemed frivolous or disrespectful.

The Star ran an apology on Tuesday, saying the photo was published "inadvertently."



file photo - Erykah Badu

Badu, who had mentioned her impending Malaysia gig in a tweet on Monday, did not immediately comment by Twitter following the cancellation.

The Home Ministry has said it would issue a warning letter to The Star asking it to explain within one week how the photo came to be published. Three top editors were summoned to the ministry on Monday.

Mashitah Ibrahim, a deputy minister in the prime minister's department, called the photo an insult.

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## Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a

shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bath-

tion, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities



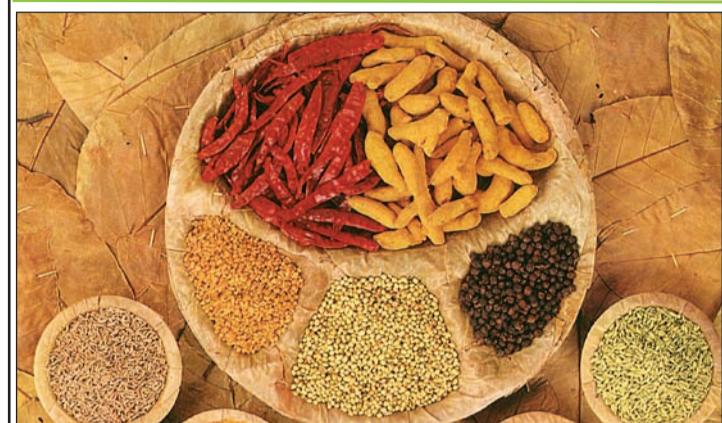
rooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connec-



and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting online at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.

## Taj Mahal Restaurant, an authentic culinary excursion



When Bharat Shah, originally from India, but now a successful businessman in California, put on a spectacular wedding in Aruba for his daughter Lisa and her groom Kalpesh, they welcomed hundreds of friends and relatives from around the world, including the "old country."

When all the wedding guests had finally arrived in Aruba, Bharat hosted an official welcome party along the shore in Palm Beach, and he chose to have it catered by Taj Mahal restaurant, he was that impressed by their cuisine.

If you like your Indian food authentic, or are looking for a new and unique dining experience, an evening at Taj Mahal will deliver a memorable meal. A seemingly endless menu offers scores of choices for fish, chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes that are "the real deal;" discover that Indian food goes way beyond curry!

A taste-testing crew from THE MORNING NEWS chose a selection of their singular starters and two main courses with saffron rice, served family style, which provided a fine example of the versatility of their chef.

Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikki, potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka, tender chicken breast pieces seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a single crumb.

Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want to order an extra basket or two of this tasty delight, on

which you can spoon your main course, as well. Poori is crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two dollars to sample with your meal.

Our group also added an appetizer of crunchy Samosas, the Indian form of a potato knish, served with either cilantro or sweet and sour sauce. A platter of their Jhinga, large, crispy-fried shrimp in a delicate batter is ample enough to serve as a main course, though featured on their appetizer menu.

As we mentioned, main courses are served family style, in beautiful little pots that sit upon a candle to keep them warm. Our group sampled the "Mutton Saagwala," also known as "Lamb Shag" which is cooked in a thick sauce of yogurt and spinach, and the "Fish Hara Masala," moist, tender chunks of fish in a rich sauce featuring cilantro as the main flavoring. This is offered in mild, medium and very spicy, we found the medium quite spicy enough for us; it left a tingle on the tongue.

The family style service allows everyone at the table to sample a bit of this and that, and we heartily recommend you do, to truly appreciate this authentic bit of India in Aruba. Open for lunch and dinner, Taj Mahal sports a cozy and intimate air-conditioned dining room and a small outdoor terrace for those that enjoy dining al fresco. They have an exotic dessert menu to match, but our group was too stuffed to partake; there was even enough left to box up and provide a lunch next day for the lucky first person to get to it!

Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, across from Aruba's Numismatic Museum, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary; they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too. If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been trying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal! Call 588-4494 for reservations.

## SPORTS

# Tennis: Strange start for Federer's record bid



Roger Federer of Switzerland returns to Michael Llodra of France

DUBAI (AFP) - Grand Slam record-holder Roger Federer began his attempt to win a record fifth Dubai Open title with one of the strangest victories of his career.

The Swiss legend won 6-0, 7-6 (8/6) against France's Michael Llodra in a match in which he won the first 11 points and then the first set in only 17 minutes, only to find himself set point down in the second.

Part of this schizoid quality was created by Llodra arriving late the night before from the Marseille Open final, starting slowly, and then ambushing Federer with some brilliant net attacks and a sudden leap in standard.

"I don't know when was the last time that happened to me," said Federer of a first set in which he conceded only seven points.

"After that I had to make sure I controlled Michael as much as I could because I know he is a dangerous player."

So much so, that Llodra first

had Federer break point down in the third game of the second set, a mini-crisis the second seed averted with a good serve, and then came from 2-4 down in the tie-breaker to hold set point at 6-5.

Federer saved that with a ferocious forehand drive winner and then two rallies later punished a Llodra second serve to close out the match.

He next plays another left-hander, Feliciano Lopez, the world number 15 from Spain, whom he played in the 2004 final here.

The winner could play Mardy Fish for a place in the semi-finals, though the American will have to beat Mikhail Youzhny, the Russian who got past another Frenchman Richard Gasquet, who was suffering from flu and retired after losing the first set 6-3.

Earlier the three-time Grand Slam finalist Andy Murray was made to struggle by a qualifier before surviving his opening match.

Murray, playing for the first time since almost halting

Novak Djokovic in the semi-finals of last month's Australian Open in Melbourne, trailed 3-4 in the final set to Michael Berrer of Germany before coming through.

The third-seeded Scot admitted to being "frustrated" with his up-and down performance after sneaking through 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 against an increasingly ambitious world number 116.

Berrer became encouraged after Murray was unable to consolidate breaks of serve at 3-2 in the second set, and at 1-0 and 2-1 in the final set.

He became bolder and more aggressive, sometimes hitting fiercely angled drives, and more often charging the net to break up the rhythm of Murray's high quality ground strokes.

Murray played a well-controlled and canny last three games to escape from the increasing danger, and afterwards complained of having felt unwell.

"I felt like I wanted to vomit - I don't know if I wasn't hydrated," he said. "I was feeling really really bad. I was getting it after long points and after getting up from the change-over.

Another player seeded to reach the semi-finals here this week, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, also had to battle hard to get over the first hurdle, beating a fellow former Australian Open finalist, Marcos Baghdatis 7-6 (7/2), 6-4.

The world number five from France only arrived at midnight the evening before the match but twice recovered from 15-40 on his serve in the second set.

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## Al Jazeera tipped to challenge Sky for EPL rights

LONDON (AFP) - Premier League clubs could be set for another huge cash windfall if the "realistic prospect" of Al Jazeera challenging rival Sky for the UK television rights comes to pass, according to a senior ESPN executive.

The English Premier League is the world's richest football league and its last three-year television deal, which runs out next season, brought in £3.5 billion (\$5.4 billion, 4.1 billion euros), of which £1.4 billion was paid by

foreign broadcasters.

In Britain, Sky shows the lion's share of matches to a UK domestic audience, while fellow satellite station ESPN broadcasts a lesser number of live matches and the terrestrial BBC screens highlights.

Qatar-based Al Jazeera, best known for its news coverage of the Middle East, made rival television stations sit up and take notice when it beat Canal Plus to the French Ligue 1 and Champions League rights.

Their victory followed on the heels of Qatar Sports Investments (QSI) acquiring the majority shareholding of Ligue 1 outfit Paris Saint Germain.

Ross Hair, ESPN's head of Europe, Middle East and Africa, believes Al Jazeera could challenge Sky for the next three-year contract -- a move which if successful would put a major dent in Sky's existing business plan.

"They have done something very interesting in France in buying first division football against the incumbent satellite broadcaster Canal Plus and we've also looked at what they've done in other markets.

"You can draw parallels with the upcoming auction in the UK. Al Jazeera have the ambition to grow further in sport and into other markets."

ESPN, which has its roots in North America, are also set to enter the next auction as they look to maintain their share of the Premier League market -- the station currently shows 23 live matches a season.

Premier League football has been one of the major drivers of Sky subscriptions and ever since its entry into English football in the 1990s it has not faced a rival broadcast network of comparable financial strength.

Qatar has not, historically, been a major football nation but it was catapulted into prominence when awarded the right to stage the 2022 World Cup.

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## Football: Euro 2012 contenders reach key staging post

PARIS (AFP) - With 100 days to go until Euro 2012, the leading candidates for the title will approach Wednesday's friendly games knowing that this will be their last opportunity to experiment until the end of the season.

Some, like Italy, Germany and England, have had changes imposed upon them by injuries, but others, like defending champions Spain, have been obliged to re-evaluate their resources after setbacks in recent matches.

Spain are bidding to become the first team to win back-to-back European Championship titles, but their results since lifting the World Cup in 2010 have quietly begun to erode their aura of invincibility.

Although imperious in qualifying for Euro 2012, Vicente del Bosque's side have come unstuck in non-competitive matches, having lost heavily to Argentina and Portugal



in 2010 before going down to Italy and England last year.

Their last outing saw them scrape a 2-2 draw with Costa Rica in November and Del Bosque reacted by making several adjustments to his squad for Wednesday's game with Venezuela at La Rosaleda in Malaga.

Goal-shy Chelsea striker Fernando Torres has been overlooked by his country for the first time since November 2006, while Barcelona's Pedro Rodriguez was also left out after several months disrupted by injuries.

Athletic Bilbao youngster Iker Muniain and Valencia striker Roberto Soldado were the chief beneficiaries, but Del Bosque warned that the squad "was not a definitive list in anticipation of the Euro".

With Spain's mantle slipping, Joachim Loew's young Germany team are widely seen as the side most likely to seize their crown in Poland and Ukraine.

Germany finished their qualifying campaign with a perfect record of 10 wins and impressed in their last friendly outing in November, when they slickly dismantled World Cup finalists the Netherlands 3-0 in Hamburg.

The three-time European champions meet France in Bremen on Wednesday, when injuries to Philipp Lahm, Per Mertesacker, Bastian Schweinsteiger, Mario Goetze and Lukas Podolski will oblige Loew to overhaul his preferred starting XI.

"Despite the injuries, there is no intention to make big changes," said Loew.

"Preparations for previous tournaments have shown that it makes little sense to give a detailed prognosis of who will ultimately be in the squad in February."

Laurent Blanc's France, who edged Bosnia-Herzegovina to top spot in qualifying Group D, have also been hampered by injuries, with key strikers Karim Benzema and Loic Remy both ruled out of the game in Bremen.

Italy, too, have problems in attack, with injury and ill health robbing coach Cesare Prandelli of strikers Giuseppe Rossi and Antonio Cassano.

Prandelli also chose to omit Mario Balotelli for Wednesday's encounter with the United States in Genoa, after the Manchester City forward had to serve a four-match ban for a stamp on Tottenham Hotspur's Scott Parker.

"I don't want players who commit reaction fouls and get sent off," Prandelli explained at the weekend.

England's preparations for Euro 2012 were rocked by the resignation of coach Fabio Capello, meaning under-21 coach Stuart Pearce will be in the dug-out for the game against the Netherlands at Wembley.

Fitness concerns have not spared the Three Lions either, with strikers Wayne Rooney and Darren Bent and emerging Manchester United midfielder Tom Cleverley among the players ruled out of Wednesday's match.

Elsewhere, Ukraine visit Israel and fellow co-hosts Poland tackle Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal, while Feyenoord's on-loan Manchester City striker John Guidetti is set to make his Sweden debut against Croatia in Zagreb.

There will be a sombre mood, meanwhile, at Wales' encounter with Costa Rica in Cardiff, which is being played as a memorial match to late Wales manager Gary Speed.

## Football: Who's afraid of Ronaldo? asks Poland manager

WARSAW (AFP) - Poland goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny is unfazed by the prospect of facing star Portugal striker Cristiano Ronaldo in a friendly today, manager Franciszek Smuda says.

Speaking on the eve of the Euro 2012 co-hosts' debut game in Warsaw's new National Stadium -- the venue for the opening match of the tournament in June -- Smuda dismissed as "rubbish" claims that the Real Madrid forward would worry his keeper.

"I can hardly imagine his legs are shaking. He's come up against so many multi-titled players that he's not worried, for sure," Smuda told reporters, in the wake of comments on Monday by Szczesny.

Szczesny is the first-choice goalkeeper at English Premier League club Arsenal, despite being only 21.

With seven international caps since 2009, he has staked his claim as heir to a line of Poles in goal running from 1970s icon Jan Tomaszewski to the more recent generation's Jerzy Dudek and Artur Boruc.

Szczesny is one of 16 names on Smuda's 22-man list for the Portugal match who play abroad -- underlining the relative weakness of the Polish league.

Seven play in Germany, notably striker Robert Lewandowski, midfielder Kuba Blaszczykowski and defender Lukasz Piszczek.

The trio have played a key role in lifting Borussia Dortmund to the top of the Bundesliga, with Lewandowski earning the nickname "Lewangoalski".

Lewandowski, 23, has 42 Poland caps and 13 goals under his belt.

But doubts remain as to

whether Smuda can field him against Portugal, after he picked up an injury during Dortmund's 3-1 defeat of Hanover on Sunday, where he scored two goals.

Like fellow Euro 2012 hosts Ukraine, Poland have an automatic berth at the championships and have had to rely on friendlies to get ready.

Having flunked their qualifying run for the 2010 World Cup, Poland will not have played a competitive match since the end of 2009 by the time they kick off Euro 2012 against Greece in Warsaw on June 8.

Their preparation campaign has been patchy, upping the pressure on Smuda's side to perform against Portugal, who made the Euro 2012 cut after thrashing surprise performers Bosnia in the play-offs.

Poland stand 70th in the global rankings of world football's governing body FIFA, compared to Portugal's sixth.

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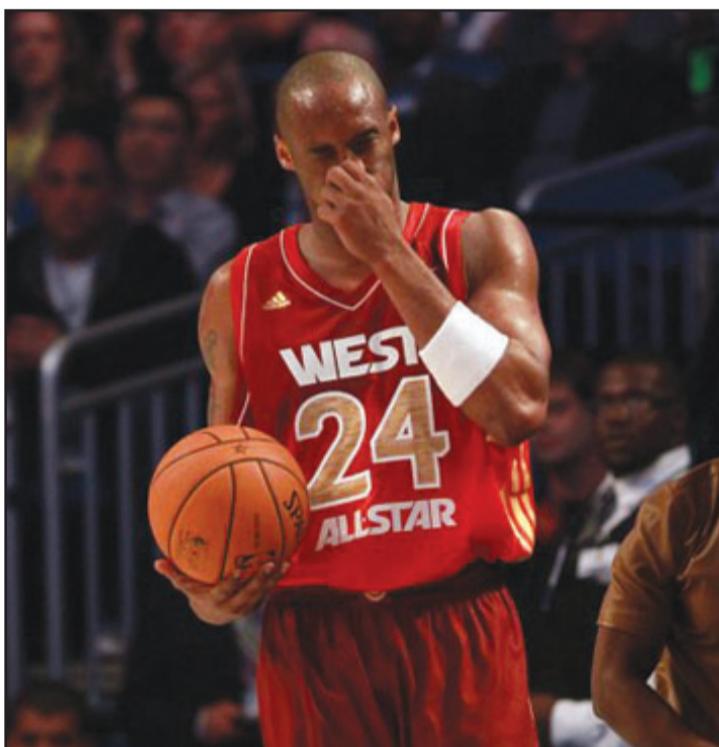
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## NBA: All-star Bryant suffers broken nose



Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers reacts after a hard foul

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Kobe Bryant moved past Michael Jordan to become the leading NBA all-star game scorer but the milestone proved costly as the Los Angeles Lakers superstar suffered a broken nose Sunday.

The 33-year-old American Bryant fractured his nose in the third quarter after being hit in the face by Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade.

Wade was assessed a foul

for reaching in and slapping Bryant on the face and shoulder with just under nine minutes to go in the quarter.

Bryant finished with 27 points and had 271 career all-star game points by the end of the 61st NBA All-Star Game which was won by the Western Conference 152-149.

A bloodied Bryant stepped up to the free-throw line and sank both shots. He remained in the game, playing eight

minutes in the fourth quarter and helping the West hold off a late charge by Team East.

"An initial CT scan revealed a nasal fracture and he will be re-evaluated on Tuesday," Lakers spokesman John Black said Monday.

The Lakers said they would not know until doctors examined the nose Tuesday whether the four-time all-star game MVP Bryant would be able to play in the Lakers next game on Wednesday against Minnesota.

The Lakers host Miami on Sunday at Staples Center arena.

Wade made no attempt to apologize for slapping Bryant, painting himself as

the victim of two earlier fouls from Bryant.

"I obviously didn't try to draw no blood, but I took a foul," Wade said. "Kobe fouled me two times in a row, so he's still got one up on me."

About four minutes after the Wade elbow, Bryant surpassed Michael Jordan's previous record of 262 points when he took a pass from Kevin Durant for a dunk in the third quarter.

The injury comes a week after Bryant blasted the Lakers' management in an explosive-laden outburst as he described his frustration with the way the NBA club was handling the Pau Gasol trade rumours.

Speaking after the Lakers loss to Phoenix February 19, Bryant said he was upset with the constant rumours circulating around Spain's Gasol and the team since the start of the season. The NBA trading deadline is March 15.

Bryant was making his 14th straight all-star appearance which tied him with Jerry West, Karl Malone, and former Laker teammate Shaquille O'Neal for the most consecutive all-star berths in league history.

In last year's all-star contest in Los Angeles, home-town hero Bryant scored 37 points in the West's 148-143 win over the East at Staples Center.

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